



HELP US SECURE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN DETENTION IN MEXICO AS A PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURE AGAINST COVID-19

#ViralicemosLaResponsabilidad #FreeThemAll

Help Us Secure the Immediate Release of all Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Detention in Mexico as a Public Health Measure against COVID-19

The Mexican government has ordered all people in the country to stay home to prevent the infection of COVID-19. This is our last opportunity to keep the coronavirus from spreading.

In spite of the Public Health Emergency Order, approximately 3,000 migrants and asylum seekers, including children, pregnant women and families are being held in detention centers in Mexico.

Detention centers in no way comply with the obligation of social distancing. People live, eat and sleep in cramped spaces. There are insufficient bathrooms, sinks and soap. Many of the more than 50 detention centers in the country have sporadic running water. They lack ventilation and the heat is asphyxiating. Immigration personnel has not been supplied with adequate facemasks, gloves and disinfectants. People continue to enter and leave, placing both the migrants and the Immigration officers at risk.

This is a time bomb. In just days, Mexico could enter into a severe health and humanitarian crisis, with thousands of people infected with coronavirus while living in deplorable conditions. The world will watch as thousands of migrant children and their families are unnecessarily infected because the Mexican government refused to follow the Public Health measures.

The good news is that the Mexican National Migration Institute (INM) reports that to date there are no cases of coronavirus among detainees. We are just in time.

We invite you to sign this Urgent Petition to demand that the Mexican government comply with international guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations that urge governments to release migrants and asylum seekers from detention.

We are making three simple requests.

The Mexican Government should:

1. **Release all migrants and asylum seekers from detention centers in Mexico.** Migrants and refugees are not criminals and there is no legal or humane justification for leaving them in cramped quarters during a pandemic. Migrants should be released with a temporary humanitarian visa.
2. **Temporarily suspend migrant raids and enforcement measures throughout the country to avoid new detentions.**
3. **Provide information regarding the national measures being implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19,** as well as the contact information for local health clinics, international and national organizations.

These measures will not only protect asylum seekers and migrants, they will protect all of us. The coronavirus knows no borders. It doesn't require a passport. It doesn't distinguish between nationality, race, age, gender or immigration status.

We must act now while we still have time to protect thousands of people.

Sign now to demand that the Mexican government take action before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Bloque Latinoamericano Pacto Mundial sobre Migración; ALMA Migrante, AC; Sin Fronteras, IAP; Pueblo Sin Fronteras; ODA, Otros Dreams en Acción; Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho, AC; Asylum Access México; e Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, AC.